

Minutes of February 8th EAC Meeting

The Allentown EAC met on February 8th, 2016 starting at 5:15 p.m. in the 3rd floor Conference Room of Allentown City Hall.

EAC members present: Randy Fey, Joe Hoffman, Tinku Khanwalkar

City official present: Lindsay Taylor

Non-EAC member present: Julie Thomases

- The minutes of the January EAC meeting were duly approved.
- There was a discussion about whether the EAC should continue to receive DEP's letters on permit renewals, denials, clean-ups etc. in the City of Allentown. The consensus was that there is no harm in receiving this information and it provides the EAC the opportunity to raise concerns if it has any. Any EAC member who wishes not to receive this material can simply ignore it. There was no motion made for the EAC to discontinue receiving the letters.
- Julie Thomases introduced herself. She has been asked by the Mayor to fill the vacant EAC seat. She is one of the founding members of the Allentown EAC and is now on the Board of Renew Lehigh Valley. In that capacity, she has taken an active role in a variety of initiatives, including Farmland Preservation, Food Sustainability, Community Gardens, etc. She will evaluate whether to come back on to the EAC and will submit an application if she decides to do so.
- Lindsay Taylor gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Department. There was a discussion about the EAC's decision to have Joe Hoffman work with her to staff to facilitate the development of a stormwater management plan which can address the EAC's ongoing concern about the current annual mowing down of the stream buffer areas. Lindsay explained that a simple scope for such a management plan has been developed. The current thought is to plant larger plants and leave space to mow around them. Lindsay agreed to send a copy of the scope to EAC members.
- The EAC reconfirmed with Lindsay Taylor that Randy Fey will serve on the steering committees for Valania Park and Percy Ruhe and both Randy Fey and Scott Burnet will serve on the dog park steering committee. Regarding Percy Ruhe, the City is waiting responses to the RFP. Regarding the dog park, a contract for the concept plan is to be issued to Barry Isette. Lindsay Taylor will

notify the EAC of the first meeting of the dog park steering committee which is to be held at the park.

- The EAC continued discussion of 2016 goals. The suggestion was made to obtain City Council input on the reports that the EAC prepared in 2015. Randy Fey's February 17th presentation to City Council on the stormwater management report will be the first one up.
- There was a discussion of whether environmental education efforts should be a 2016 EAC goal. Joe Hoffman's commitment to submit an article to Adventure Allentown for this fall's publication would be one vehicle for this.
- There was a discussion of whether Allentown should consider a stormwater ordinance similar to the one passed by South Whitehall Township which requires homeowners to disconnect sumps from stormwater drains and requires the water to flow across unpaved areas so as to allow for the water to percolate into the ground. Julie Thomases agreed to look into this ordinance.
- The EAC revisited the 1928 Hamilton Street development. The matter will be put on the agenda for March.
- There was a discussion of whether further action can be taken with respect to energy benchmarking in the City. This will require further discussion with Craig Messinger before a decision can be made.
- There was consensus that the EAC should focus on no more than three goals for 2016.

The meeting was duly adjourned at 6:55 p.m.